

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T NAIROBI 8746

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KE, SO, US, ET

SUBJECT: KENYAN RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA & ETHIOPIA

REF: NAIROBI 8621

1) KENYA DEFENSE MINISTRY PERMSEC KIEREINI REITERATED
TO DCM ON JULY 12 KENYAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNS REPORTED
REFTTEL RE POSSIBLE PROVISION OF WESTERN ARMS TO SOMALIA.
KIEREINI SAID ANY COUNTRY, INCLUDING SOMALIA, IS ENTITLED
TO HAVE CAPACITY TO DEFEND ITSELF; HOWEVER, SOMALIA, WITH
SOVIET ASSISTANCE, HAS EXPANDED ITS ARMED FORCES FAR
BEYOND NEEDS FOR DEFENSE OF EXISTING BORDERS. KIEREINI
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT, HOWEVER DESIRABLE IT MIGHT BE TO

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REDUCE OR ELIMINATE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA,
WESTERN OR ARAB COUNTRIES SHOULD GIVE FIRST PRIORITY
TO ENOURAGING AND ASSISTING SOMALIA IN ITS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN IN PROVIDING MORE THAN MINIMAL
QUANTITIES OF ARMS.

2) KIEREINI SAID THAT SOMALI SHIFAS HAD INCURRED HEAVY

CASUALTIES IN THEIR RECENT CLASHES WITH KENYAN ARMED FORCES IN NORTHEASTERN KENYA. ALL OF THESE SHIFAS HAVE NOW CROSSED TO ETHIOPIA SIDE OF BORDER AND APPEAR TO BE PARTICIPATING IN A MAJOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST ETHIOPIA. KIERINI SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO EFFECTIVE EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION WITH ETHIOPIA DURING RECENT KENYAN CLASH WITH SOMALI SHIFAS. SINCE KENYA DOES NOT CONSIDER ITS BILATERAL DEFENSE PACT WITH ETHIOPIA TO BE VERY MEANINGFUL UNDER MENGISTU REGIME, FULL-SCALE WAR BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA WOULD NOT NECESSARILY TRIGGER KENYA'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN HOSTILITIES. NEVERTHELESS, IF WAR EVENTUATES AND IF ETHIOPIA WERE TO REQUEST MILITARY USE OF KENYAN AIR FIELDS AND PORT OF MOMBASA, KIERINI WOULD RECOMMEND THAT KENYAN GOVERNMENT GRANT THESE REQUESTS OUT OF SELF INTEREST.

3) IN LONGER TERM, IF SOMALIA IS ABLE TO SEIZE AND HOLD ETHIOPIA'S OGADEN PROVINCE, KENYANS FEEL THAT IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMALIA TRIES TO SEIZE KENYAN TERRITORY. IN MEANTIME, KIERINI SAID THAT KENYA WILL TAKE "NO CHANCES" AND IF THERE ARE ANY FURTHER SOMALI MILITARY PROVOCATIONS IN KENYAN TERRITORY, "WE'LL HIT THEM AND HIT THEM HARD WITH EVERYTHING WE HAVE GOT." LEMELLE

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